# Death of President Dwight Eisenhower NBC News Huntley Brinkley Report

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0hR1NOrcYA (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0hR1NOrcYA)

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From Friday March 28th, 1969 NBC News Huntley Brinkley Report from the day The 34th President of the United States Dwight D. Eisenhower died. Eisenhower passed away at 12:25 P.M E.T

President Dwight David "Ike" Eisenhower
1890 - 1969

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General Eisenhower died today his death was peaceful and natural he was 78 years old and it was the end of a life so filled with accomplishment and achievement and honors that even though it was a long life it could hardly have held any more down to the end he remained one of the most popular of all Americans last year it was widely said and perhaps accurately that if he had been a little younger and healthier and had it been legally possible he could have been elected president again he survived seven heart attacks a stroke and a variety of surgery but finally today his heart was so weakened it could no longer function and he died of congestive heart failure the announcement came from general Frederick Hughes Colin Don of the Walter Reed Army Hospital general of the Army Dwight David Eisenhower 34th President of the United States died quietly at 12:25 this afternoon after a long and heroic struggle against overwhelming illness his passing was peaceful and he experienced no distress mrs. Eisenhower and the immediate family were nearby President Nixon former presidents Truman and Johnson and general Eisenhower's brothers have been notified the commanding general Military District of Washington has responsibility for all the arrangements for the state funeral it is the wish of the eisenhower family that in lieu of flowers friends will recall charities of their choice or those of prime interest to General Eisenhower during his lifetime these are as follows and they will be handed out to you

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to you the Eisenhower exchange fellowships Eisenhower College people-to-people program freedom's foundation and the Dwight David Eisenhower Research Fund for cerebral palsy President Nixon went out to the hospital when he heard the news NBC News correspondent Douglas Kiker has been standing by at the hospital these last several days and here is his report President Nixon left the White House as soon as he learned of the death I went to the hospital to pay his respects to the Eisenhower family with him was the first lady and their daughter Patricia they stayed half-an-hour later the president proclaimed Monday as a national day of mourning then accompanied by his wife he left Washington to spend the weekend at Camp David the presidential retreat in nearby Maryland there was no surprise really no shock here at Walter Reed Army Medical Center when general Eisenhower's death was announced this afternoon he was a very sick man and a very great man and he had been so close to death so many times before that all the arrangements had been made far in advance his family his friends all his old comrades were prepared for it the generals fatal illness began 13 days ago congestive heart failure that means simply that his heart gave out on him that his heart so weakened by seven previous heart attacks simply lacked the strength to pump the blood his body needed when that happens the lungs and the heart chambers slowly fill up with blood and the body slowly becomes congested with saltwater so for 13 days General Eisenhower fought death but every day he grew

progressively weaker and reports on his condition grew progressively bleaker until last night when unexpectedly there seemed to be some slight improvement the doctor said he was resting more comfortably breathing easier and that the slow deterioration of his heart

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the slow deterioration of his heart appeared to have halted but this morning was a different matter the doctor said his condition had considerably worsened overnight a little later they said his course was continuing almost imperceptibly downhill and then a little later came the announcement of death Douglass Kiker NBC News at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center here are the funeral plans tomorrow the generals body will be taken to the Washington National Cathedral there'll be a brief service for the family and it'll lie in repose there for 24 hours Sunday afternoon it'll be moved by hearse from the Cathedral toward the Capitol until it reaches the White House where it will be transferred to a horse-drawn Kayson and will then go to the Capitol to lie in state in the rotunda until Monday on Monday back to the Cathedral for a funeral service then to the railroad station for a special train carrying it to Abilene Kansas which the general always called home all of this will be seen live on NBC television there in Abilene about halfway across the country he will be buried on Wednesday jet to former American presidents today issued messages of condolence and tribute to the late 34th president dwight d eisenhower former President Johnson said America will be a lonely land without him but America will always be a better nation because I quiz with us when America needed him former President Truman said General Eisenhower and I became political opponents but before that we were comrades in arms and I cannot forget his services to his country and to Western civilization president de Gaulle of France announced that he will attend general Eisenhower's funeral UN Secretary General thought to call him one of the great leaders of our time and the blue and white UN flag was lowered to half-staff this afternoon General Omar Bradley recalled his old West Point classmate a dedicated completely selfless American British Field Marshal Lord Montgomery said I am very distressed I want to be left alone now and in New York restaurant owner

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now and in New York restaurant owner John Schwartz general Eisenhower's mess sergeant said when I opened my restaurant in 1946 he came and I have pictures of him here smiling generalized now has suffered the first of his seven heart attacks in 1955 during his first presidential term he also had ill ëitís and in 1957 a stroke while still in office in an interview with NBC News correspondent ray sure late in 1965 shortly after his 75th birthday former President Eisenhower expressed his thoughts about the office of President and about his own period in office here is part of the interview because in your book you talk about your health problems you intimated that you came moderately close to resigning in 57 after that slight stroke of course we all know I came there I said this here is something for the first time that we're and I found for a while I couldn't speak I couldn't find the right to work I knew what I wanted to say but I couldn't say it now if I were going to have a difficulty like this there would recur and no one knew whether it would I had to go ahead for a test I said of herself namely carrying out my plan to go to him to NATO with the heads of government meeting there and if I got through that all right I thought there was no need for me thinking about this anymore but naturally far more than a heart attack or my le itis operation this one bothered me is meaning when you might finally become just mentally incapable of doing anything and people it out of sympathy for you might not get rid of his regular should what about the point that some people made at the time of the u-2 incident they said that you should not have accepted responsibility for it and thus give mr. Khrushchev an out rain let us assume that something of this

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let us assume that something of this importance had gone ahead for three-four years as it had and that when we were finally found out and we knew that they knew we were doing it see Thank You Weber do you read often track part of their their own radar tracks so when I now go to a meeting with mr. crickshaw and he's day we start to an arguing about something and he said well what about why should I listen to you you don't even

know what's going on in your own government the idea of me pretending to allies that I should allow such thing of this happening and I say I could put it on in some down some underling this is a grave responsibility and I joined it but on top of that in the long run a part of the American people think of you that you'd found a scapegoat now you've gotten rid of him and of course later you'd have to admit that you'd been responsible all the time I it just that makes sense now in the early days of them of you might say more formal diplomacy this might have gone but now when you were going to meet a man and they have to say well please I don't know what's going on in my own government well you wouldn't have they got very far with a man like crucial you wanted all the cards on the table well I just wanted this I wonder if he it was better for him to think of either someone that had made a blender they was to make him think I didn't know anything about my government hysterically he had many times described himself as a political moderate and as a moderate in foreign affairs he was in fact a man so wary of extremes in any direction that many people now look back to his administration as the good old days Eisenhower was born in Denison Texas on October 14th 1890 the son of David Eisenhower a railroad mechanic and storekeeper and his wife the former Ida Stover and his parents took him to

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Stover and his parents took him to Abilene Kansas when he was a year old there he grew up this is the first house in Abilene in which Eisenhower lived a perfect example of the American Gothic celebrated by Grant Wood Eisenhower is at the left with four of his brothers second lieutenant Dwight Eisenhower resplendent in dress White's pose with his bride the former main ijen Eva Dowd shortly after their wedding in Denver on July 1st 1916 General George Marshall sent Eisenhower to Europe to draw up a plan for fighting the Germans during World War two and then much to Eisenhower surprise named him to execute it somewhere in Britain just before the invasion of Europe in June of 1944 Eisenhower supervised tank maneuvers the war in Europe ended in Charles DeGaulle no longer rebuffed by the Allies had the supreme pleasure of decorating the man who led them to victory Eisenhower's returned to the United States was triumphant and included the reunion with his wife his mother's comment on what he had done was I knew he would win for Dwight always got what he went after the man who for so long refused to run for president finally was nominated by the Republicans in Chicago in 1952 Richard Nixon his running mate posed with him in this picture president-elect Eisenhower made good on a campaign promise to go to Korea to try to end the war there On January 20th 1953 he took the oath of office from chief justice Fred Vinson eyes know I like to hunt and fish but his special enthusiasms were reserved for painting he had no illusions about what he could do and golf and there too he was without illusions on Christmas Day 1956 the president was photographed with his youngest grandchild Mary Jane Eisenhower at the White House as often as not the president wore bowties and sports jackets former President Eisenhower and

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jackets former President Eisenhower and President Kennedy talked about the Cuban Missile Crisis at its height during this Eisenhower visit to Camp David in 1962 President Johnson whose feelings toward Eisenhower were at once warm respectful and constant visited him and Walter Reed Army Medical Center last June and President Nixon visited him in February the president was accompanied by news men who had covered both men when Eisenhower was president and mr. Nixon pointed out several of them the country stock exchanges will be closed Monday the day of former President Eisenhower state funeral David on his birthday last year General Eisenhower was in his room at Walter Reed Hospital and the army sent a band outside his window to play a little music for it he and mrs. Eisenhower came to the window to listen and a wave to the people outside and that was his last more-or-less public appearance you ah ah

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the Oh why you go ah baby

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goodnight Chet and I did it and good night or NBC News

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